

We Claim:

DW D1

1. An apparatus for the enhanced detection of a biological reaction between a sample and an active area of a biochip, the apparatus comprising:

5 a biochip having an active area, and
a fluidic system adapted to flow the sample over
the active area of the biochip.

2. The apparatus for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of Claim 1 wherein the fluidic system is in direct contact with the biochip.

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3. The apparatus of Claim 1 for enhancing the detection of biological reactions wherein the fluidic system includes a flow cell.

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4. The apparatus for enhanced detection of biological reactions of Claim 3 wherein the flow cell substantially surrounds the active area of the biochip.

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5. The apparatus for the enhanced detection of a biological reaction of Claim 4 wherein the flow cell further includes a window adapted to permit radiation from the active area of the biochip to external of the apparatus.

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6. The apparatus for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of Claim 5 wherein the window is a ports window.

7. The apparatus for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of Claim 3 wherein the flow cell has a defined volume.

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8. The apparatus for enhanced detection of biological reactions of Claim 7 wherein the flow cell has a volume from substantially 5 to 10 microliters.

DW D2

DW D3

DW D4

SL/D5

9. The apparatus for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of ~~Claim 3~~ wherein the flow cell further includes an inlet port and an outlet port.

10. The apparatus for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of ~~Claim 9~~ further including a reservoir attached to the outlet port.

11. The apparatus for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of ~~Claim 10~~ wherein the reservoir comprises a waste tube.

10 12. The apparatus for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of ~~Claim 10~~ wherein the reservoir comprises an expandable structure.

15 13. The apparatus for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of ~~Claim 1~~ wherein the biochip is disposed on a circuit board.

14. The apparatus for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of ~~Claim 13~~ wherein the circuit board is a PCMCIA board.

20 15. The apparatus for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of ~~Claim 13~~ further including wires connecting the biochip to the circuit board.

16. The apparatus for the enhanced detection of a biological reaction of ~~Claim 15~~ wherein the circuit board is a printed circuit board.

25 17. The apparatus for the enhanced detection of a biological reaction of ~~Claim 15~~ wherein the wires are embedded in a protective material.

18. The apparatus for enhanced detection of a

biological reaction of Claim 17 wherein the protective material comprises the ultraviolet light resistant epoxy.

19. A method for the enhanced detection of a biological reaction between a sample containing material to be detected and a biochip, the biochip having an active area, comprising the steps of:

flowing the sample over the active area of the biochip,

10 activating the biochip for the detection of the material within the sample, and

flowing the material to a reservoir.

20. The method for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of Claim 19 further including the step of detecting the presence of the sample material at the biochip.

21. The method for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of Claim 20 wherein the detection step comprises optical detection.

20 22. The method for enhanced detection of a biological reaction of Claim 21 wherein the optical detection includes fluorescence detection.

23. An optical detection system for providing radiation to a region of interest of a sample and for 25 providing radiation from the region of interest to a detector, comprising:

an excitation fiber having an input end and an output end,

30 a light guide adapted for disposition between the region of interest of the sample and the detector, and

the excitation fiber including an axially region, the axially region including the output end of the exci-

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ation fiber, wherein the excitation fiber in the axial-
ly region is substantially parallel to the axis of the
light guide.

24. The optical detection system of Claim 23
5 wherein the excitation fiber is a fiber optic.

25. The optical detection system of Claim 23
wherein the light guide comprises a liquid light guide.

26. The optical detection system of Claim 23 fur-
ther including an excitation source adapted to provide
10 radiation to the excitation fiber at its input end.

27. The optical detection system of Claim 26
wherein the excitation source is a laser.

28. The optical detection system of Claim 23 fur-
ther including a fiber launch system optics adapted to
15 receive radiation from an excitation source and to pro-
vide it to the input end of the excitation fiber.

29. The optical detection system of Claim 23
wherein the axial region of the excitation fiber is
coaxial with the light guide.

20 30. The optical detection system of Claim 23
wherein the light guide further includes optical ele-
ments.

31. The optical detection system of Claim 30
wherein the optical elements include at least one lens.

25 32. The optical detection system of Claim 31
wherein the optical elements include a proximal lens
adapted to receive the radiation from the region of
interest.

33. The optical detection system of Claim 32 wherein the proximal lens includes an aperture through which the output end of the excitation fiber is disposed

5 34. A method for hybridization analysis between a sample and a probe, the analysis utilizing an electronic stringency control device, comprising the steps of:

providing the sample and probe with a fluorescent label under hybridization conditions on the electronic stringency control device, forming a fluorescently labelled hybridization product,

monitoring the fluorescence from the hybridization product,

subjecting the hybridization product to varying
15 electrophoretic force, and
analyzing the fluorescent signal.

35. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim 34 wherein the fluorescence is analyzed for the fluorescent perturbation value.

20 36. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim
35 wherein the fluorescence perturbation value is mea-
sured for the onset value.

37. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim
35 wherein the fluorescence perturbation value is mea-
25 sured for its height.

38. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim
35 wherein the fluorescence perturbation value is mea-
sured for the slope.

39. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim
30 34 wherein the fluorescence is analyzed for the power
level of the perturbation.

40. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim
34 further including the steps of:

determining a second measure of hybridization be-
tween the sample and the probe, and

5 combining the information obtained by the first
analysis including the step of subjecting the hybridiza-
tion product to the varying electrophoretic force in the
second measure to provide a indication of hybridization.

41. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim
10 40 wherein the second measure of hybridization includes
determination of the electronic melting point.

42. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim
34 wherein the fluorescent label is placed in proximity
to the initial denaturation site.

15 43. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim
42 wherein the fluorescent label is intercalated adja-
cent a single based mismatch site.

44. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim
43 wherein the fluorescent label is ethidium bromide.

20 45. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim
43 wherein the fluorescent label is acridine.

46. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim
34 wherein the electrophoretic force is in an amount
less than is necessary to effect dehybridization of the
25 sample and the probe.

47. The method for hybridization analysis of Claim
34 wherein the hybridization product is subject to an
oscillating electrophoretic force.

48. A method for DNA fingerprinting on an electronically addressable array, the array having capture probes at individual test sites and fluorescent markers associated with the hybridized materials at the sites, 5 comprising the steps of:

hybridizing DNA fragments of a first length to the capture probes at a first test site,

hybridizing DNA fragments of a second length to the capture probes at a second test site,

10 observing the fluorescent signal from one or more test sites as the potential at the electronically addressable array site is reversed, and

detecting those sites which achieve dehybridization at a potential.

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